

Moreover, Penn State is now home to the largest stadium in the United States, honoring POW/MIA service-members with a chair of honor that will forever remain empty honoring those brave Americans who never returned home.

To Penn State University and the community members who have made this week possible, thank you for your work. We are Penn State.

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS FOR TEXAS

(Ms. GARCIA of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the billions of dollars coming to Texas to provide clean water and to weatherize our power grid.

In just the past year and a half, my district has faced a devastating winter storm and a massive pipe burst that put lives at risk. These two events, pictured beside me, demonstrate a simple truth. We are long past due for investments that modernize our electric grid and restore our aging water systems.

That is why I am proud that the infrastructure bill will invest \$3.5 billion to prepare power grids for weather emergencies and bring \$2.9 billion directly to Texas for clean water. Thanks to this funding, communities like mine will benefit from clean water, reliable power, and peace of mind.

NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH DAY

(Mr. GUEST asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUEST. Madam Speaker, I rise today on Thursday, November 18, in honor of National Rural Health Day. My home State of Mississippi is leading the way in rural healthcare innovation, which is important because 54 percent of our State's population lives in rural areas. Thanks to a strong network of hospitals served by dedicated healthcare providers, as well as a world-class telehealth system anchored by the University of Mississippi Medical Center, patients in Mississippi can receive the care they need in their communities.

I am proud of the partnership between two universities in my district to improve health outcomes in rural communities across our State. The University of Mississippi Medical Center, our State's only academic medical center, and Mississippi State University, with its land grant mission and extension expertise, are partnering on critical healthcare and public health challenges and are working together to meet the healthcare needs of their fellow Mississippians.

Madam Speaker, I am grateful for Mississippi's role in advancing rural healthcare and the selfless service of our healthcare providers.

BUILDING BACK GREEN

(Mr. ESPAILLAT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend my colleagues for acting to tackle the climate crisis. Under President Biden's leadership, we are celebrating America's efforts to combat our world's largest existential threat: global warming.

Last week, Speaker PELOSI led a diverse group of House Democrats to Glasgow, Scotland. I was part of that group, the COP 26 conference, and our message was clear. The U.S. is proud to be back in the Paris Agreement and will continue to demonstrate our commitment to reach net-zero emissions.

Our commitment was met by action, not only with the agreements that were struck during the conference, but also the sound policies included in the Build Back Better Act. The framework's \$555 billion investment represents the largest single investment in our clean energy economy in history. This includes buildings, transportation, industry, electricity, agriculture, and climate-smart practices across lands and waters.

As an environmental justice policy, the Justice40 acknowledges decades of environmental burdens on Black, Brown, and indigenous communities. Upholding this policy is vital to guarantee that communities that have weathered the costs of climate change finally receive commonsense human rights.

Let's build back better. Let's build back green.

ECONOMIC CRISIS

(Mrs. STEEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. STEEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to discuss the rising costs that are crushing hardworking families.

Last week, it was reported that inflation hit a 30-year high. This is a hidden tax on every American that is making your paycheck worth less. Americans are paying more for everything, from groceries, to utilities, to filling up the gas tank.

The cost of a gallon of gas is up 61 percent; utilities up 28 percent; and everyday grocery items, like eggs, milk, and chicken, are all significantly higher.

These numbers have real consequences for not only Orange County families I represent, but nationwide. We need to get our spending under control or these problems will only continue to get worse.

Madam Speaker, I will continue to fight against these policies that are making life for Americans more expensive.

OVERDOSE DEATHS REACH RECORD HIGH

(Mr. GROTHMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, we got horrible news yesterday; for the first time in the United States, over 100,000 people died from illegal drugs. When I got here 6 years ago, that number was 47,000. By comparison, in 12 years, only 58,000 died in the Vietnam War. Almost twice as many people die in this country every year from illegal drug overdose than died in the entire 12-year period of the Vietnam War.

Today, we look at a major bill, the Build Back Better Act, and we look at what is the effect of the Build Back Better Act on 100,000 deaths. In this bill, we are encouraging more illegal immigration; we are taking more Border Patrol agents off the border and processing young people. And finally, in this bill we are encouraging more people to come here, which inevitably means more fentanyl, more deaths.

Madam Speaker, I ask the majority party to please step back, change the bill to add a few more Border Patrol agents, and change the bill to get out the carrots that are going to encourage more fentanyl and more deaths.

VACCINE MANDATE CONCERNS

(Mr. ROSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, today, I come to the House floor to speak on behalf of business owners and employees and healthcare providers, including employees at Cookeville Regional Medical Center who are concerned about President Biden's unconstitutional vaccine mandate.

If the Biden administration mandate is allowed to take effect, there is a strong possibility that Cookeville Regional Medical Center, the hospital in my hometown where I was born and where my two sons were born, will not have the staff necessary to carry on normal operations.

The Biden administration's plan to mandate vaccines will devastate medical facilities throughout the country. Let me be clear. President Biden's mandates on medical facilities will dramatically exacerbate the current medical worker shortage in my State and in my district.

While I encourage everyone to consult with their doctors and consider joining me in being vaccinated, it is not the Federal Government's place, under the current circumstances, to mandate a vaccine. That is why I am calling on President Biden to end his indiscriminate vaccine mandate.